



MEASURE H

Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 493, Los Angeles, California 90012
<https://homeless.lacounty.gov/oversight/>

**NOTE: THIS WILL BE A TELECONFERENCE MEETING.
DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF ALL COUNTY BUILDINGS, MEETING PARTICIPANTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NEED TO CALL IN TO THE MEETING.**

Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board Meeting AGENDA

1st District Appointee
John Naimo

2nd District Appointee
Chancela Al-Mansour

3rd District Appointee
Christine Margiotta

4th District Appointee
Andrew Kerr

5th District Appointee
Peggy Edwards

DATE: Thursday, June 3, 2021
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
CALL-IN NUMBER: 844-291-5490
ACCESS CODE: 8177585

AGENDA

Interim Director, Homeless Initiative
Cheri Todoroff

Advisory Board Liaison
Rowena Magaña

- I. **Welcome & Introductions**
- II. **Approval of Minutes for the March 4, 2021 Regular Board Meeting**
- III. **General Public Comment**
- IV. **Future of the Homeless Initiative and Measure H:** Cheri Todoroff, Chief Executive Office, Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI)
- V. **The COVID-19 Recovery Plan for People Experiencing Homelessness:** Will Lehman, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
- VI. **Homeless Initiative Quarterly Report No. 19:** Cheri Todoroff, CEO-HI
- VII. **Fiscal Year 2021-22 Chief Executive Office-Homeless Initiative Funding Recommendations Process:** Cheri Todoroff, CEO-HI
- VIII. **Adjournment**

If any person intends to submit documentation to the Advisory Board for its consideration prior to the meeting, such documentation shall be submitted via email to: CEO Measure H Oversight <MeasureHOversight@lacounty.gov>, no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 1:00 pm

**Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 4, 2021 Conference Call**

ATTENDEES

Advisory Board: Christine Margiotta (Chair), John Naimo, Chancela Al-Mansour, Andrew Kerr, and Peggy Edwards

County Staff: Phil Ansell, Rowena Magaña, Elizabeth Ben-Ishai, Jeremiah Rodriguez, and Noro Zurabyan

I. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Margiotta called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with all members present.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The December 3, 2020 meeting minutes were approved with no amendments.

III. General Public Comment

- A representative with the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Union, shared their willingness to help and support.

IV. Audit of the Homeless and Housing Measure H Special Revenue Fund for the Year Ending June 30, 2020 - Oscar Valdez, Auditor-Controller Department

- BCA Watson Rice, LLP was engaged as independent contractors to conduct the audit for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.
- Audit Results were that financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles from the United States and did not identify any type of noncompliance issues.
- No additional public comment on this item.

V. Homeless Initiative Leadership Transition - Phil Ansell, Chief Executive Office, Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI)

- Mr. Ansell announced that he will be retiring from County service on March 31, 2021.
- Cheri Todoroff, who is currently the Director of Community Programs at the Department of Health Services, has been named as the Interim Director of the Homeless Initiative, effective April 1, 2021.
- Mr. Ansell shared his appreciation of the Citizens Oversight Advisory Board and members of the Advisory Board shared their congratulations to Mr. Ansell.
- No additional public comment on this item.

VI. Achieving Functional Zero in Los Angeles County: An Inflow and Outflow Model - Phil Ansell & Liz Ben-Ishai, CEO-HI

- Mr. Ansell stated that a workgroup comprised of local and national experts on homelessness data and research were convened with the goal of creating a model to identify what it would take to achieve "functional zero" in Los Angeles County.

- The workgroup included representatives from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), United Way of Greater Los Angeles, academia, and technical assistance experts from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Functional zero is the point when a community's homeless services system is able to prevent homelessness when possible and ensure that when homelessness does occur it is rare, brief, and is a one-time occurrence.
- When functional zero is achieved, the number of people who are homeless at any point in time is very low, but it does not mean that there are no people experiencing homelessness.
- Fluctuations in the size of the homeless population are driven by three factors:
 - How many people are homeless at a given point in time.
 - How many people exit homelessness within a given period of time.
 - How many people become homeless within a given period of time.
- To achieve functional zero, more people need to exit than enter homelessness.
- Although the homeless services system has a major impact on people exiting homelessness, on its own, it is unable to control the number of people who will enter homelessness.
- A chart showing sample projections of the timeline to functional zero, according to the model, is included on page 53 of the agenda packet (https://homeless.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/03.04.21-COAB-Mtg-Agenda_FINAL-PACKET2.pdf):
 - Column A represents the number of people who become homeless (inflow).
 - Column B represents baseline system exits, which are based on the current capacity of the homeless services system to enable people to move from homelessness into permanent housing.
 - Column C represents additional system exits, which are the number of exits that would be possible if additional resources were available in the homeless services system.
 - Column D represents self-resolved exits, which are the number of exits by those who resolve their homelessness on their own, without system assistance.
- Estimates based on existing data suggest that, for every 100 people who become homeless, 60 will need help from the homeless services delivery system to resolve their homelessness and 40 will exit homelessness on their own, without system assistance.
- In summary, if the number of people who exit homelessness, which includes baseline system exits, additional exits, and self-resolved exits, exceed the annual inflow, then the homeless count will decrease.
- United Way has agreed to create an interactive model, which is under development.
- Mr. Naimo asked if there are certain strategies and/or resources that can help reduce annual inflow.
- Mr. Ansell responded that the largest contributor to inflow is the limited amount of affordable housing. Rent is too high relative to wages and tenants remain vulnerable to unjust evictions.

- Policy changes are needed. For example, President Biden has proposed to make Section 8 housing vouchers an entitlement to those who meet income and eligibility criteria, which if enacted, would have a significant impact on inflow.
- An additional contributor to inflow is governmental systems, such as the child welfare system and prisons/jails, where people are provided a place to sleep; however, once exited, many are at-risk for homelessness.
- Other unexpected crises experienced by people who are already experiencing housing insecurity and lack a financial cushion, such as a relationship breakup or an unexpected health emergency, often drive inflow into homelessness.
- It is difficult to predict who will actually become homeless because only 10% of those who experience crises that may appear likely to lead to homelessness, actually become homeless.
- The County, in partnership with the California Policy Lab, is using predictive analytics to predict who will become homeless. CPL is able to reach a 40% accuracy rate for single adults and efforts are underway to determine how to target families.
- Ms. Edwards asked for more discussion on the system exits column and a possible route to plan expenditures of resources most effectively.
- Mr. Ansell responded that the homeless services system has doubled the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing since 2015.
- Mr. Ansell also pointed to the fundamental need to increase affordable housing; there is a deficit of over 500,000 units in Los Angeles County.
- SB 329, enacted in 2019, makes it illegal for landlords in California to discriminate against people using Section 8, but given the scarcity of affordable housing, voucher holders still struggle to find units.
- Increased funding is needed to pay for rental subsidies and associated services in order to reduce homelessness.
- Mr. Kerr stated if we only focus on receiving increased funding for rental subsidies, the problem may become worse. There is a scarcity of affordable housing, so if the market is flooded with more resources, it would help some, but it may drive others into homelessness.
- Public Comment: A commenter asked how private organizations can help to solve homelessness, for example, through a private/public partnership.

VII. Fiscal Year 2021-22 Measure H Funding Recommendations Process - Phil Ansell, Chief Executive Office, Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI)

- Mr. Ansell shared that the initial public comment period has just been completed.
- The draft Measure H Funding Recommendations will be released on April 15, 2021 for a three-week public comment period.
- A virtual public hearing will follow where comments will be considered by the leads and Homeless Initiative team.
- On May 27, 2021, the proposed final recommendations will be discussed with the Homeless Policy Board Deputies and the recommendations to be heard by the Board of Supervisors on July 6, 2021.
- Measure H funding for FY 2021-22 is \$35 million less than projected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Carryover and potential state and federal funding will contribute to available funding.
- In addition, the County is committed to supporting the expansion of permanent supportive housing, but also has to pay for the intensive case management services that are tied to it, and a share of Measure H is needed to fund these increasing services.
- With the growth of PSH, there is the ongoing dynamic of having to make curtailments to other Measure H-funded strategies. However, in the future, this problem may be solved by accessing federal revenue.
- Ms. Margiotta asked if there are any structural changes to major funding areas or major changes in allocations to any specific area.
- Mr. Ansell responded that it is too early in the process to determine, due to unknown available funding related to 2021 expenditures and the pandemic's effect on revenue.
- No public comment was received for this item.

VIII. Additional Funding for Homeless Services - Phil Ansell, Chief Executive Office, Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI)

- Mr. Ansell explained that the chart on page 55 of the agenda packet (https://homeless.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/03.04.21-COAB-Mtg-Agenda_FINAL-PACKET2.pdf) only relates to funding administered by the County. Some funding sources were allocated directly to other entities in the County. The amounts do not represent the totality of the funding from all the various sources.
 - a. Homeless Housing, Assistance, Prevention Program (HHAP)
 - The first round of HHAP was enacted in FY 2019-20.
 - The second round was enacted in the current state budget and is still pending.
 - LAHSA and other cities also received separate allocations.
 - The County received \$64.3 million in the first round of HHAP and is expected to receive \$29.4 million in the second round.
 - The \$64.3 million was planned to be used in two fiscal years, but due to the pandemic, the Board approved the entire \$64.3 million be utilized in the current fiscal year to mitigate curtailments in Measure H-funded services. This created a gap in FY 2021-22. The Board approved utilizing the second round of HHAP (\$29.4 million) in FY 2021-22 to replace the first round of HHAP that was originally budgeted.
 - b. Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)
 - The County received \$1.2 billion in CRF. The funding is not homeless specific, but the County had the discretion to use it for homelessness.
 - The County allocated \$159 million of the \$1.2 billion toward homelessness.
 - The deadline to use this funding was December 30, 2020. However, late last year, the deadline was extended to December 31, 2021.
 - The City of Los Angeles, and possibly other cities, received a separate CRF allocation.
 - c. CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV)

- This is a standard, non-pandemic-specific federal funding source, which can be used to combat homelessness.
 - The County and six cities in the County received this funding.
 - The County received \$105.8 million to be spent by September 2022.
 - The funding is being allocated for this and next fiscal year.
- d. Project Homekey
- Funding is made available to purchase hotels and motels for interim and/or permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness.
 - The County received \$90 million for acquisition of 10 sites, which have a combined total of 850 rooms.
 - \$18 million was also provided to cover a portion of the operating costs through June 2022.
 - Currently, eight of the 10 sites are operating, and provide interim housing. The two remaining sites are to open in March 2021 as permanent supportive housing.
 - The initial eight sites will be converted from interim to permanent supportive housing in 2022.
- e. Project Roomkey
- Funding totaled \$31 million and supplemented funding available through the Federal Emergency Management Administration.
 - The City of Los Angeles and LAHSA also received Project Roomkey funding.
- One-time funding is being relied on to supplement Measure H and sustain the homeless services system. Absent new one-time funding or ongoing state or federal funding, curtailments will be needed, which is exacerbated by the continued growth in cost for permanent supportive housing services.
 - Mr. Naimo mentioned a Coronavirus funding bill in Congress right now that contains substantial money for state and local government and asked if there is insight into what it could bring to Measure H and homeless programs.
 - Mr. Ansell responded that there is \$5 billion earmarked for homelessness statewide; however, the allocation methodology used is unfavorable to Los Angeles County.
 - In addition, there is a pending federal stimulus bill, which may include homeless specific funding available to the County.
 - No additional public comments.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Rowena Magaña and Jeremiah Rodriguez

Minutes approved by: Jerry Ramirez